# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:231
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government propose to develop a national knowledge network which would support both open and distance learning and conventional learning at all levels in the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be developed?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ( SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN )

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHASTARRED QUESTION NO. 231 FOR 13T MARCH, 2001 ASKED BY SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA REGARDING NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Government is aware of the information revolution taking place across the world and the need for the country to keep pace with the developments taking place. A number of measures are on the anvil which include revision of curriculum for developing a learning/knowledge society, increasing use of information and communication technologies, electronic media in imparting/dissemination of knowledge, computerization alongwith internet connectivity at all levels of education, networking of educational institutions, setting up of virtual universities for increasing the outreach of the open and distance learning etc.

The National Open School has developed a network called "Indian Open Schooling Network" which has brought a great number of Internet based schools all over India together. Also, Indira Gandhi National Open University is providing various facilities such as course materials, examination/registration information, online admission and evaluation for some management programmes etc. through the net.

Further, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has provided connectivity to around 100 engineering colleges and 70 Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes. In addition, around 500 other academic institutions have been given dial-up connectivity and 30 Community Information Centres have been made operational in North-Eastern States.